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SOURCE Yeni Istanbul.REPORT SOVIETS TO ABANDON ALBANIA

Following Enver Hoxha's trip to Moscow, a Soviet general named Guntusev has been sent to Albania. His mission reportedly is to straighten out, in conjunction with other specialists, the rather difficult situation of the Soviets in Albania.

According to certain reports, which have been impossible to verify, the Soviet mission in Albania has been ordered to abandon the country, and some members, together with their families, have already returned to the USSR, while the remainder are ready to leave at a moment's notice. It is known definitely that the families of many Soviet officers have left Albania.

The immediate goal of the Soviets is to purge the army cadres of doubtful elements, and to this end, many officers and noncommissioned officers, the reliability of whose Communism is suspected, have been eliminated from the army or assigned to other units. Still others have been retired or jailed. Among the latter are General Gjin Marku, and Colonel Nejip Vintsikani, Deputy Chief of Staff. The army is now under the firm control of Soviet specialists. A purge is also under way within the Albanian Communist Party, but no details have leaked out.

The government has begun a campaign against the increasing activity of saboteurs, and special courts have been created to hand down death sentences. The courts in Tirana and Koritza [Korce?] are especially busy. Agricultural cooperatives are being looted and destroyed, and factories sabotaged. Resistance activities are increasing, especially in cities such as Vlore, Pogradec, Vera [Berat?] Patos, and Lushnje.

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